



Farm Labor



BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Washington, D. C.

MORE PEOPLE AT WORK ON FARMS

More persons were employed on farms on August 1 this year than on that date in any other year since 1942, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. There were 11,044,000 people engaged in farm work in the entire country, including 8,258,000 farm operators and unpaid members of their families and 2,786,000 hired hands. The total of persons working on farms on August 1 remained above a year earlier by about the same margin as have recent months.

Farm work has moved along very well this year. Little serious delay has occurred because of wet weather, except in some parts of the South. Field work got off to an early start and in many instances harvest is ahead of the usual schedule. Farmers have been able to spread some types of work over longer periods of time than usual and have made more efficient use of the available labor supply. Relatively little complaint of short supplies of workers has been reported, although the number of hired workers employed remained below the 1940-44 average.

The number of family workers on August 1 was about the same as in 1940, before many workers left farm work for industrial jobs and the armed forces. The decline in numbers from a month earlier was about the same as usual. Employment of family workers was above a year earlier by about the same extent as in recent months. In the Northeastern States the number of family workers was a little less than last year, when rains in July had made it necessary to use every available worker on August 1. In all other regions the number of family workers was larger on August 1 than a year ago, except in the East North Central States where the number remained about the same. The number of family workers declined seasonally in all regions, except in the Mountain States where an increase from July 1 to August 1 is normal.

Replacement of hired farm workers who left farm jobs for industrial work and to serve in the armed forces has been slower than that of family workers. For the country as a whole, the number of hired workers on August 1 was larger than in either of the two preceding years, but still was about 10 percent less than during 1940-42. New England was the only region having fewer hired farm workers on August 1 than a year earlier. The East Central States and the Mountain States had about the same number as a year ago, while all other regions showed increases. In the entire country, the number of hired workers employed on farms increased slightly more from

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July 1 to August 1 than it did a year earlier, when need for workers was much greater because of unfavorable weather in preceding weeks. Both the 1940-44 and the 1935-39 averages show decreases in the number of hired workers during July.

In the New England States the number of both family and hired workers on August 1 was less than a year ago. Last year every effort was being made to complete work delayed by wet weather in July, whereas this year weather during July was more favorable. On August 1 farmers were making hay, spraying and dusting fruit trees and cultivating and harvesting vegetables. The total number of workers on farms increased less than usual during July. The number of family workers decreased instead of increasing as usual, but there was a larger than usual increase in the number of hired workers.

In the Middle Atlantic States the number of persons working on farms on August 1 was about the same as a year earlier, after about the usual seasonal increase. The contra-seasonal decrease from July 1 in the number of family workers was more than offset by a larger than usual increase in the number of hired hands. Farm work in progress in the region on August 1 included harvesting of hay and small grain, which was about completed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Plowing for fall grains had started in Pennsylvania. On Long Island, onions and potatoes were being harvested. Potatoes also were being harvested in central New Jersey, as were apples and peaches. In Southern New Jersey some tomatoes were starting to move to canneries, while tomatoes and other vegetables were being harvested for the fresh market.

In the East North Central States the small grain harvest was nearing completion on August 1, except for oats in Michigan and Wisconsin. Fall plowing was under way in most of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. A job requiring considerable labor in Illinois was detasseling corn hybrids for seed. With work well in hand, the combined total of both family and hired workers was about the same as a year ago.

With farm work on schedule in the West North Central States and little interference from adverse weather conditions, the number of both family and hired workers showed the usual seasonal changes during July. Both groups of workers on August 1 were larger than a year ago. The northward movement of the small grain harvest had reached North Dakota and Minnesota, with the job nearly completed as far north as northern Nebraska. Wherever the small grain harvest had been completed, fall plowing was starting.

The number of persons employed in the South Atlantic States on August 1 exceeded the August 1, 1945 number more than was the case for any other region. The decrease from July 1 in the number of family workers was less than usual, while the number of hired workers was up, slightly compared with the usual decrease. The cotton crop required very little labor around August 1 either this year or last, but wet weather a year ago interfered seriously with tobacco harvest. The citrus harvest in Florida was about completed by August 1 and a few early sweet potatoes were being dug. In Georgia and South Carolina, peaches and watermelons were almost all harvested. The peanut harvest and cotton picking were starting in southern areas of these States. Tobacco was almost all cut in South Carolina. Harvest

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of tobacco was in full swing in North Carolina, with the job approximately half completed. Peach-picking was starting in Virginia and West Virginia.

In the East South Central States, the numbers of both family and hired workers decreased less than usual during July. On August 1 hired workers totaled about the same as a year earlier, but family workers were more numerous. Farm work was generally in a seasonal lull but some hay was being made. In Mississippi rain was causing some delay in field work.

The number of farm workers, both family and hired, in the West South Central States decreased less than usual during July, in line with the general trend in the South. Both family and hired workers numbered more this year on August 1 than a year earlier, with hired workers showing the greater percentage increase. Major harvest operations in the region were largely confined to Texas, except for hay making in all States and broomcorn harvest in Oklahoma. In southern Texas the harvests of cotton, peanuts, and sorghums were well under way, with some sorghum grain being harvested in most of the State except the far northern panhandle. Plowing for fall grains was nearing completion in Texas and Oklahoma.

The number of persons working on farms in the Mountain States increased seasonally, with the number of hired workers up more than usual. Their number, however, was only about as large as a year earlier, while the number of family workers was larger. Small grain harvesting was under way in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming and was nearly completed in Colorado and Utah. Harvest operations also were in progress for dry peas, potatoes, carrots, onions, and apricots in Idaho, peaches in southern Utah, and potatoes in the Greeley area of Colorado. Hay harvest was general in all the region.

In the Pacific States on August 1, farm activities were approaching their peak. In California farm work consisted principally of citrus harvesting, planting, cultivation, irrigation and harvest of commercial vegetables; alfalfa hay, harvest completion of small grain harvest and the harvest of early fruit. The small grain harvest was an important task in both Washington and Oregon. Potatoes were also being harvested in Malheur County, Oregon. The number of persons employed on farms on August 1 in the entire region was up slightly from a year earlier. Both family and hired workers showed the usual seasonal change in numbers, a slight decrease in family workers and a moderate increase in hired workers.

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Farm labor: Wage rates, persons employed, indexes and related data,
United States, August 1, 1946, with comparisons

	: Annual : average : 1910-14	: Annual : average : 1935-39	: August : 1, : 1945	: July : 1, : 1946	: August : 1, : 1946
FARM WAGE RATES					
Per month, with board.....	\$22.09	\$26.01	---	\$92.00	---
Per month, without board.....	29.18	34.17	---	106.00	---
Per day, with board.....	1.16	1.23	---	4.25	---
Per day, without board.....	1.42	1.50	---	4.84	---
Composite rate per month <u>1/</u>	24.76	29.15	---	96.50	---
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES					
Unadjusted	100	118	---	390	---
Adjusted for seasonal variation:	100	118	---	378	---
FARM WAGE RATE INDEXES BY REGIONS:					
New England.....	100	143	---	367	---
Middle Atlantic.....	100	129	---	374	---
East North Central.....	100	115	---	342	---
West North Central.....	100	98	---	346	---
South Atlantic.....	100	111	---	336	---
East South Central.....	100	101	---	292	---
West South Central.....	100	102	---	350	---
Mountain.....	100	106	---	339	---
Pacific.....	100	129	---	126	---
FARM EMPLOYMENT (thousands of persons)					
Total.....	12,052	10,920	10,612	11,586	11,044
Family labor.....	9,160	8,353	7,970	8,875	8,258
Hired labor.....	2,892	2,567	2,642	2,711	2,786
FARM EMPLOYMENT INDEXES (Adjusted for seasonal variation)					
Total.....	100	91	93	84	86
Family labor	100	91	85	87	88
Hired labor	100	89	75	74	79
RELATED INDEXES					
Prices received by farmers <u>2/</u> :	100	107	205	231	<u>3/</u> 244
Ratio of prices received to farm wage rates.....	100	91	---	59	---
Average weekly factory earnings:	100	199	374	---	---

1/ Weighted average of monthly rates with and without board, and daily rates with and without board converted to a monthly basis.

2/ Average of the 15th of the given and the 15th of the previous month.

3/ July 15, 1946 - latest data available.

4/ Factory payroll per employed workers; average of all weeks during the designated month. Revised April 1946.

Based on reports from 16,796 farmers.

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Farm employment: Persons employed, United States and geographic
divisions, August 1, 1946, with comparisons

TOTAL FARM EMPLOYMENT

Geographic division	August average 1935-39 1,000's	July 1945 1,000's	August 1945 1,000's	July 1946 1,000's	August 1946 1,000's
United States.....	11,515	11,100	10,612	11,586	11,044
New England.....	297	277	301	275	289
Middle Atlantic....	732	734	762	760	765
East North Central..	1,635	1,462	1,528	1,513	1,531
West North Central..	1,891	1,725	1,741	1,816	1,790
South Atlantic.....	2,305	2,147	1,922	2,271	2,134
East South Central..	1,669	1,759	1,408	1,776	1,496
West South Central..	1,855	1,879	1,723	1,994	1,796
Mountain.....	502	443	560	473	509
Pacific.....	629	674	727	708	734

FAMILY WORKERS 1/

United States.....	8,532	8,556	7,970	8,875	8,258
New England.....	178	175	176	182	169
Middle Atlantic....	457	461	457	473	451
East North Central..	1,223	1,193	1,220	1,233	1,224
West North Central..	1,422	1,447	1,414	1,502	1,445
South Atlantic.....	1,772	1,703	1,518	1,790	1,647
East South Central..	1,425	1,544	1,224	1,562	1,312
West South Central..	1,410	1,441	1,329	1,502	1,367
Mountain.....	309	282	322	311	331
Pacific.....	336	310	310	320	312

HIRED WORKERS

United States.....	2,983	2,544	2,642	2,711	2,786
New England.....	119	102	125	93	120
Middle Atlantic....	275	273	305	287	314
East North Central..	412	269	308	280	307
West North Central..	469	278	327	314	345
South Atlantic.....	533	444	404	481	487
East South Central..	244	215	184	214	184
West South Central..	445	438	394	492	429
Mountain.....	193	161	178	162	178
Pacific.....	293	364	417	388	422

1/ Including farm operators and members of their families working without wages.

Based on reports from 16,796 farmers who reported for their own farms the number of family and hired workers doing 2 or more days of work during the week of inquiry.

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Farm employment: Total, family and hired workers, United States,
specified annual averages and months, Jan. 1945 - August 1946 ^{1/}

Year and month	Total farm employment <u>1,000's</u>	Family workers <u>2/ 1,000's</u>	Hired workers <u>1,000's</u>
1910-14 av.	12,052	9,160	2,892
1935-39 av.	10,920	8,353	2,567
1939 av.	10,740	8,145	2,595
1940 av.	10,585	8,019	2,566
1941 av.	10,361	7,329	2,532
1942 av.	10,397	7,855	2,542
1943 av.	10,263	7,857	2,406
1944 av.	10,037	7,810	2,227
1945 av.	9,844	7,726	2,118
January 1	8,005	6,571	1,434
February 1	8,951	6,557	1,494
March 1	8,414	6,894	1,520
April 1	8,982	7,322	1,660
May 1	10,017	8,153	1,864
June 1	10,994	8,637	2,357
July 1	11,100	8,556	2,544
August 1	10,612	7,970	2,642
September 1	10,907	8,094	2,813
October 1	11,052	8,558	2,494
November 1	10,747	8,178	2,569
December 1	9,245	7,217	2,028
1946 av.	-	-	-
January 1	7,732	6,412	1,320
February 1	7,799	6,375	1,424
March 1	8,263	6,774	1,489
April 1	9,121	7,469	1,652
May 1	10,366	8,391	1,975
June 1	11,422	8,969	2,453
July 1	11,586	8,875	2,711
August 1	11,044	8,258	2,786

^{1/} Annual averages are straight averages of first of month employment estimates.

^{2/} Includes farm operators and members of their families working without wages.

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Form employment: Persons employed and index numbers, by type of
farming area January 1945 to date 1/—Continued

Year:	Range Area						Northwestern Area					
	2/		:		Index 3/		2/		:		Index 3/	
month:	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Family:	Hired:	Total:	Family:	Hired:	Total:
	: 000	000	000				: 000	000	000			
1945 :	126	90	276	123	89	109	205	98	303	129	126	128
Jan.:	163	63	231	111	62	92	186	40	226	117	51	95
Feb.:	172	53	225	114	52	89	197	39	236	124	50	100
Mar.:	179	72	251	118	71	99	198	37	235	125	47	99
Apr.:	182	69	251	120	68	99	204	46	250	128	59	105
May :	188	76	264	124	75	105	216	57	273	136	73	115
June:	200	114	314	132	113	124	220	81	301	138	104	127
July:	169	107	276	112	106	109	206	157	363	130	201	153
Aug.:	204	116	320	135	115	127	214	197	411	135	253	173
Sept:	203	135	338	134	133	134	231	203	434	145	260	183
Oct.:	191	100	291	126	99	115	201	126	327	126	162	138
Nov.:	193	106	299	128	105	118	199	128	327	125	164	138
Dec.:	192	66	248	120	65	98	192	69	261	121	88	110
1946 :												
Jan.:	161	55	216	106	54	86	182	41	223	114	53	94
Feb.:	160	50	213	108	49	84	197	37	234	124	47	99
Mar.:	165	62	227	109	61	90	199	42	241	125	54	102
Apr.:	191	76	247	120	75	102	201	45	246	126	58	104
May :	190	87	282	132	82	112	211	65	276	133	83	116
June:	202	114	316	134	113	125	222	92	314	140	118	132
July:	195	111	306	129	110	121	212	154	366	133	197	154
Aug.:	203	121	329	138	120	130	217	196	413	136	251	174

1/ Corn Area: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa; Eastern Dairy Area; New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania; Western Dairy Area; Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota; Middle Eastern Area; Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee; Eastern Cotton Area; South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama; Delta Cotton Area; Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana; Western Cotton Area; Oklahoma and Texas; Small Grains Area; North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Montana; Range Area; Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada; Northwestern Area; Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

2/ Includes farm operators and members of their families doing farm work without wages.

3/ 1910-14 = 100.

Farm labor program: Foreign workers employed in
agriculture, July 26, 1946 1/

State	Mexicans	Jamaicans	Bahamians	Hondurans	British Barbadians	Newfound- landers	Total
Maine		29	20			51	100
N. H.	2/ 28	21				40	89
Vt.	2/112					100	212
Mass.		214				45	259
R. I.						6	6
Conn.		1,946	1			57	2,004
N. Y.	2/226	2,189	353	130	69	197	3,164
N. J.		1,431	46		69	54	1,600
Pa.		258	116		80	55	509
Ohio		818					818
Ind.	87	175					262
Ill.	170	801	4				975
Mich.	2,164	517					2,681
Wis.	1,828	1,440	31	5	191		3,495
Minn.	1,088	140					1,228
Iowa	1,378	197					1,575
Mo.		44					44
N. Dak.							
S. Dak.	297						297
Neb.	839						839
Kans.	212						212
Del.		285	149		80	9	523
Md.		602	883		16	10	1,511
Va.			450				450
W. Va.							
N. C.			1,260				1,260
S. C.							
Ga.							
Fla.		8	1,184		2,361		3,553
Ky.							
Tenn.			204				204
Ala.							
Miss.							
Ark.							
La.							
Okla.							
Tex.							
Mont.	1,158						1,158
Idaho	1,959						1,959
Wyo.	328						328
Colo.	717						717
N. Mex.	23						23
Ariz.	1,074						1,074
Utah	704						704
Nev.	426						426
Wash.	2,788						2,788
Oreg.	1,625						1,625
Calif.	20,484						20,484
U. S.	39,349	11,115	4,701	135	2,866	624	59,156

1/ Data provided by Requirements and Certifications Sections, Program Division,
Labor Branch, P.M.A.

2/ Canadians

Farm labor program: Farm labor placements,
June 1946 1/

State	June		January 1 - June 30	
	1945	1946	1945	1946
Maine	697	1,678	1,124	2,309
N. H.	708	930	1,199	1,537
Vt.	557	464	1,189	922
Mass.	955	494	2,203	1,578
R. I.	89	27	148	82
Conn.	2,786	2,054	7,019	6,151
N. Y.	17,107	27,471	34,571	50,336
N. J.	20,083	5,221	45,281	9,957
Pa.	3,077	1,567	5,914	3,460
Ohio	3,626	5,036	9,079	10,448
Ind.	6,449	1,921	9,468	3,446
Ill.	5,838	4,448	21,862	13,724
Mich.	14,845	17,139	17,153	20,090
Wis.	3,517	4,270	7,028	6,313
Minn.	3,071	1,894	7,030	6,078
Iowa	6,734	1,178	17,413	3,661
Mo.	3,268	2,573	12,152	4,432
N. Dak.	2,882	3,298	19,601	8,721
S. Dak.	5,684	5,447	7,125	7,549
Nebr.	11,778	995	27,360	2,850
Kans.	3,912	2,220	5,072	2,620
Del.	1,730	960	4,391	2,358
Md.	20,857	12,898	34,360	30,157
Va.	18,090	18,231	33,783	21,832
W. Va.	386	87	1,252	441
N. C.	24,611	31,612	47,574	53,119
S. C.	11,212	3,032	25,932	6,786
Ga.	14,326	11,537	50,337	34,547
Fla.	2,742	174	22,228	18,119
Ky.	8,299	1,090	21,433	10,146
Tenn.	20,357	5,066	79,056	28,026
Ala.	1,463	3,138	16,391	11,075
Miss.	15,959	11,388	64,375	66,287
Ark.	64,474	27,940	146,245	104,198
La.	9,254	8,635	31,279	26,682
Okla.	27,085	16,483	88,888	49,065
Tex.	58,812	28,351	156,369	75,789
Mont.	15,461	15,307	21,564	22,596
Idaho	52,055	75,080	74,837	121,746
Wyo.	1,371	5,683	3,903	7,862
Colo.	17,527	23,027	28,437	44,546
N. Mex.	4,587	1,963	22,395	8,050
Ariz.	2,611	488	37,181	25,682
Utah	29,121	27,173	34,143	35,660
Nev.	551	539	2,266	1,930
Wash.	41,889	48,141	82,358	72,245
Oreg.	8,272	25,249	23,892	47,667
Calif.	67,356	66,425	277,965	238,397
Total	658,127	557,012	1,691,885	1,331,272

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.

Farm labor program: Placements of World War II veterans on farms,
United States, by months, January 1945 - June 1946 1/

Month	As hired hands	As tenants or sharecroppers	All placements
<u>1945</u>			
January	513	80	593
February	730	116	846
March	910	167	1,077
April	1,149	140	1,289
May	1,229	85	1,314
June	1,718	76	1,794
July	3,024	86	3,110
August	3,791	140	3,931
September	3,873	196	4,069
October	5,529	378	5,907
November	4,892	663	5,555
December	4,378	505	4,883
<u>Total</u>	<u>31,736</u>	<u>2,632</u>	<u>34,368</u>
<u>1946</u>			
January	3,186	1,750	4,936
February	3,544	1,844	5,388
March	4,538	1,527	6,065
April	5,707	1,527	7,234
May	8,048	990	9,038
June	12,569	974	13,543

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.

Farm labor program: Placements of World War II veterans on
farms, by geographic divisions, June 1946 1/

Area	As hired hands	As tenants or sharecroppers	All placements
New England	98	0	98
Middle Atlantic	285	36	321
East North Central	1,169	85	1,254
West North Central	1,176	30	1,206
South Atlantic	258	143	401
East South Central	485	249	734
West-South Central	2,594	413	3,007
Mountain	2,467	16	2,483
Pacific	4,037	2	4,039
<u>United States</u>	<u>12,569</u>	<u>974</u>	<u>13,543</u>

1/ Data from monthly reports of Extension Farm Labor Program, Extension Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D. C.

SPECIFIC WAGE CEILINGS ISSUED, AMENDED OR REVOKED JULY 1946 1/

CALIFORNIA

APPLES. Harvesting apples in Sonoma County. No. 53, amended July 31, 1946

Maximum wage rates: Tree-picking apples, 85 cents per hour or 16 cents per 42-pound box or equivalent measure. Picking apples from the ground, 85 cents per hour or \$4.00 per ton.

PEARS, PRUNES, WALNUTS, AND HOPS. Picking pears, prunes, walnuts, and hops in Lake County. No. 58, amended July 26, 1946.

Maximum wage rates: Hourly rates: picking pears, prunes, walnuts and hops, \$1.00. Piece rates: tree-picking pears, 15 cents per Stewart lug or the equivalent; picking prunes from the ground, 25 cents per box containing 50 pounds; picking hops, $3\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pounds; the piece rate for knocking and picking up of walnuts, or for the picking up of walnuts only may not exceed an amount equal to the cost per sack or other unit of measurement if such work were paid for on an hourly basis under the conditions in that individual orchard at the time of picking.

1/ Data from Wage Stabilization Division, Labor Branch, PMA

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